

NGC 145/000312-040

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Declaration and Power of Attorney

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and/or joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **AUTOMATED INSPECTION OF PACKAGING MATERIALS FOR PACKAGE INTEGRITY** the specification of which was filed on December 12, 2003, as application Serial No. 10/734,358.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by an amendment, if any, specifically referred to in this oath or declaration.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

None

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

This application claims the priority of U.S. provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/461,366 (by Abdollahi, et al., filed April 9, 2003, and entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATED INSPECTION OF PACKAGE SEAL INTEGRITY").

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Ex. A

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I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute said application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Terry J. Anderson | Reg. No. | 24,271 |
| Gerald L. Lett | | 24,509 |
| Walter G. Sutcliff | | 24,914 |
| Michael H. Wallach | | 27,406 |
| Karl J. Hoch, Jr. | | 34,181 |
| Scot R. Hewitt | | 35,191 |
| Carmen B. Patti | | 26,784 |
| Robert J. Brill | | 36,760 |
| Patent Agent: Joseph S. Hanasz | | 54,720 |

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Full name of 1st joint inventor: Mohsen Abdollahi

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____

Residence: 9008 Cannstatt Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Post Office Address:

Full name of 2nd joint inventor: Kevin H. Giles

Inventor's signature  Date 21 OCT 03

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Knoxville, TN 37922

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Post Office Address:

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Full name of 3rd joint inventor: Charles L. Guffey

Inventor's signature

Charles L. Guffey

Date 10/21/03

Residence: 4231 Sweetwater
Sweetwater, TN 37874

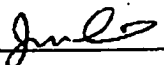
Citizenship: U.S.A.

Post Office Address:

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Full name of 4th joint inventor: Jun Liu

Inventor's signature  Date 21-OCT-2003

Residence: 1309 Chatam Ridge Lane
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Citizenship: U.S.A.

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Full name of 5th joint inventor: Bernard Roche

Inventor's signature

Date 21 Oct 2003

Residence: 412 Ferret Road
Farragut, TN 37922

Citizenship: U.S.A.

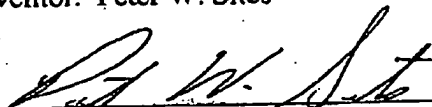
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Full name of 6th joint inventor: Peter W. Sites

Inventor's signature

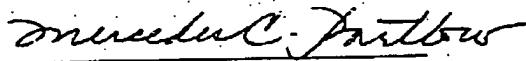
Date 12/19/03Residence: 1540 Barley Circle
Knoxville, TN 37922

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Post Office Address: Same as above.

Date: Dec. 19, 2003United States of America
State of: Tennessee
County of: Knox

On this 19th day of December, 2003, before me personally came Peter W. Sites, to me known to be the individual described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged execution of the same.



Notary Public

My commission expires on 11/01/2006

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Full name of 7th joint inventor: Robert P. Whalen

Inventor's signature Robert P. Whalen Date 10/21/03

Residence: 11724 Yarnell Road
Knoxville, TN 37932

Citizenship: U.S.A.

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All written communications are to be addressed to:

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